

A Study of Gender-based Issues on Field of Corona Warriors Amid Lockdown

Vivekanand V. Kadam^{1*}, Sarika V. Kadam²

Abstract

The outbreak of covid-19 has posed a major threat to the high-density areas of the country. During the corona war in the Palghar district, women employees from various departments of the district administration played an active role in providing services. There are 2210 ASHA workers, 3183 Anganwadi workers, 38 doctors, and 293 nurses and 70 female bus conductors in the Palghar District. At present, these women are playing dual responsibilities. One of a housewife and other of a covid warrior. These great warriors who contributed to the corona epidemic by risking their lives during corona warfare have to face various problems while serving in the field. Despite being more vulnerable than men, women employees continue to serve at par with their male counterparts.

This paper aims to highlight the problems faced by female employees on the duty during the lockdown period. Make society sensitive towards them and foster support for women warriors in this corona war.

For this study, using the simple random sampling method, information was collected from 100 random female employees from a group of 6000 consisting of women doctors, nurses, Asha workers, bus conductors, cleaners, and police all across the district.

This research study is very important for corona war workers because the availability of female workers is considered as very important to fulfill the need for mental support and affection in such illnesses. It will help employers to understand and fulfill the special needs of female employees to ensure their continued active participation and increased efficiency.

¹ Vivekanand V. Kadam, District Disaster Management Officer, District Disaster Management Authority, Collector Office, Palghar (Maharashtra).

² Sarika V. Kadam, M.Phil Student, Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University, Nagpur (Maharashtra).

* Corresponding Author Email: vivek91587@gmail.com

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1. Introduction

The origin of the corona virus appears to be in China's Wuhan province in December 2019. The World Health Organization announced the Public Health Mission for Health on January 30, 2020 and on March 11, 2020, announced that COVID-19 diseases had spread worldwide. Women employees of various departments like the revenue department, police department, health department, sanitation department and public transport department are serving the people. The huge numbers of warriors like doctors, nurses, cleaners, Asha workers, paramedic staff, police, and revenue department mostly this corona war is going on their strength. But many more employees are working on a contract basis. The contribution of women employees to service providers from all walks of life is unparalleled. But female employees serving in the workplace during the Corona lockdown have to deal with a variety of issues. Facing various problems female employees during the lockdown period of the corona pandemic in Palghar district. It affects their personal health.

1.1 Study Area

The district of Palghar Northeast Konkan coast region of the Maharashtra state spread over the area 4,69,699 hectares of the geographical area (Figure 1). On the east side of the district, there is Thane and Nashik, on the west, there is the Arabian Sea, on the south side Mumbai, Thane and on the northside Walsad (Gujrat), Dadara and Nagar Haveli. Palghar has a coastline of 112 Km.

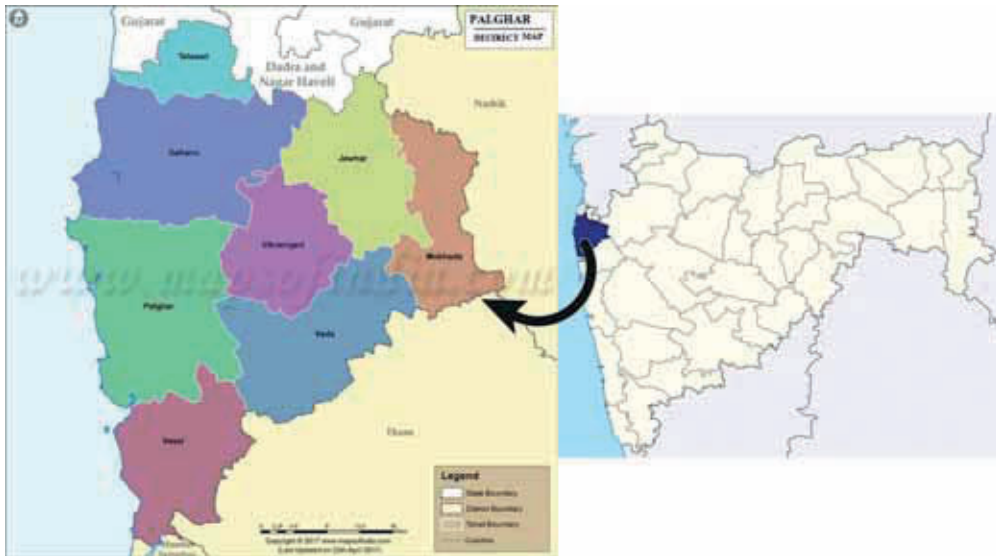


Figure 1: Study Area Map

2. Data Sources & Methodology

The methodology used in this research is a simple random sample method. The present study was conducted based on primary and secondary data sources. The study survey was based on a semi-structured questionnaire that encompassed a large set of queries on problems of corona women workers while working duty of corona on field experience with, in particular, impact on women's corona warriors' life. Content of the government's reports, research papers and electronic newspapers information has been collected from women doctors, nurses, Asha workers, bus conductors, cleaners, and police from the district by selecting 100 samples using questionnaires.

3. Need of the Study

Insulting female employees while on duty. Not given correct answers, looking at them with lustful eyes, speaking in double meaning. In Tribal areas, women workers are not allowed to enter the village and the Padas after performing their duties. Constantly harassing their families. Sanitary pads are not available during the period when female

employees are on the duty. The educated woman of today's has become caring. Even if she carries a sanitary pad with her, the question is where the changing room will be available to uses it. At the same time, the PPE kit is made of 6 feet for a man and a woman. While she's wearing PPE Kit fits if then the menstrual cycle will come then the time how it is possible to hygiene maintain. Raised in very critical situations to maintain hygiene. And that's why she's too many health problems. The mother has to stay away from the baby. That's why babies are going to another way like gaming, the Internet. Public transport closed due to lockdown. The cost of traveling from home to field was more than salary. It is tough to travel long distances with no transport available, however, at the intangible gain of the satisfaction of serving the folks, and families makes all the distinction, female corona workers say with an enormous smile on their face.

Firstly, because most of the masks are designed for a larger male face and need to be pulled tightly across the face for a woman. This can result in skin injuries by tightening the mask or trying to seal the Nose Bridge, as well as area over the chin. Secondly, even if one does find a comfortable fit, it is not necessary that the same brand or size would be available always. In fact, even the smallest size of the critical PPE like goggles, shields, coveralls, and masks are too big for some of the smaller built female HCWs. Table 1 represents COVID-19 Positive Doctors, Police, Paramedical Staff & Frontline workers Information.

Table 1 : Covid-19 Affected Warriors

COVID-19 Positive Doctors, Police & Paramedical Staff Information (Date: 07/08/2020)					
Sr. No.	HW Positive	Total Positive	Recovered	Active	Death
1	Doctors	45	34	11	0
2	Nursing Staff	47	74	0	0
3	Others	56	45	09	0
4	Police	228	184	41	3
Total		376	310	61	3

Source: Civil Surgeon Office, Palghar

4. Meaning of Lockdown

“When a natural or human-made disaster or accident occurs in a particular region, province, or continent. The imposition of legal restrictions on people in the affected areas, provinces, and continents not to leave their homes to protect themselves from the disaster” that is called lockdown.

5. Result and Discussion

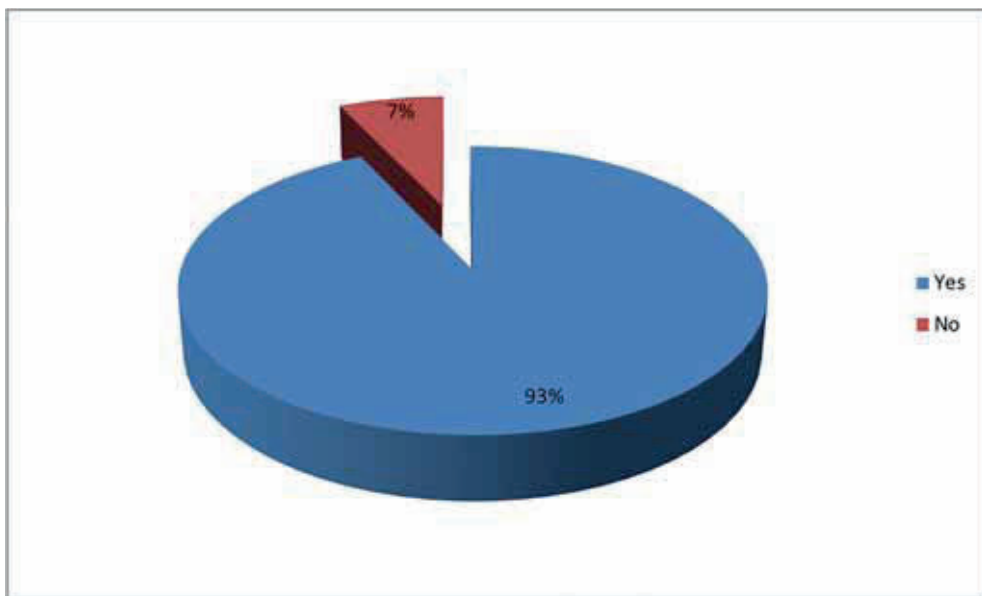


Figure 2 : While you were providing services during COVID-19 lockdown did you face any difficulties? If yes, then please explain.

93 percent of female employees (Figure 2) said that they face various problems while serving during the Corona lockdown period as the reasons are as follows: living difficulties, can't travel, mental stress, fear of corona infection, the inconvenience of meals, not being able to rest, not being able to pay attention to children as well as older adults at home, visiting once a week to go home but people in the community are not ready to take. There is no set time for work; citizens have closed roads in their area. There is a shortage of PPE kits and neglect of one's health.

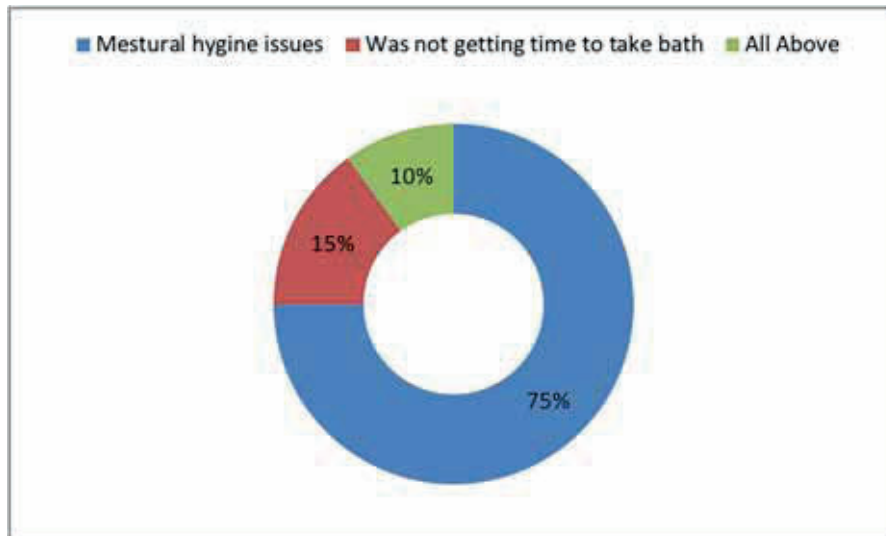


Figure 3 : What Personal Hygiene Issues were Noticed?

Seventy-five percent of female employees explained that menstrual problems are one of the most common personal hygiene issues. 15% of female employees say they don't have time to take a bath. According to 10 a percent of female employees, all the above problems are clear.

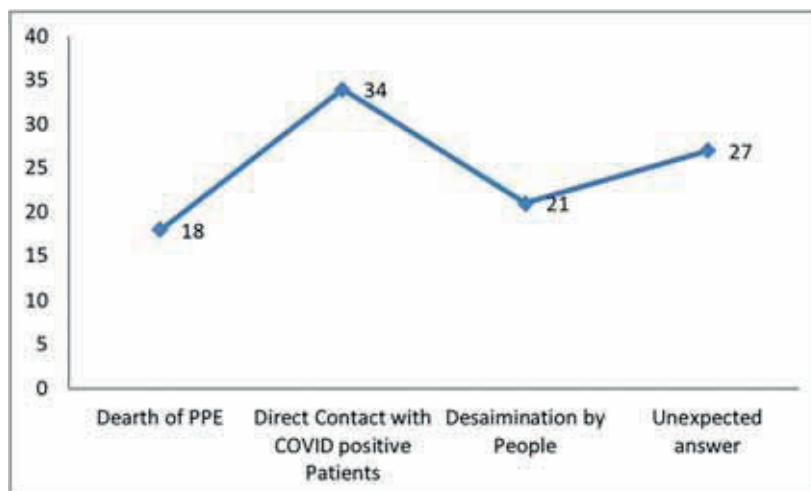


Figure 4 : What were the difficulties you faced while working as a frontline?

Women warriors face various problems while providing services amid virus Lockdown in the field. 18% of female employees say that there is a shortage of PPE kits. 34% of women have experienced direct contact with a COVID patient. People are disrespected when they work for people. So 27 percent of female employees say they meet to hear unexpected answers from people.

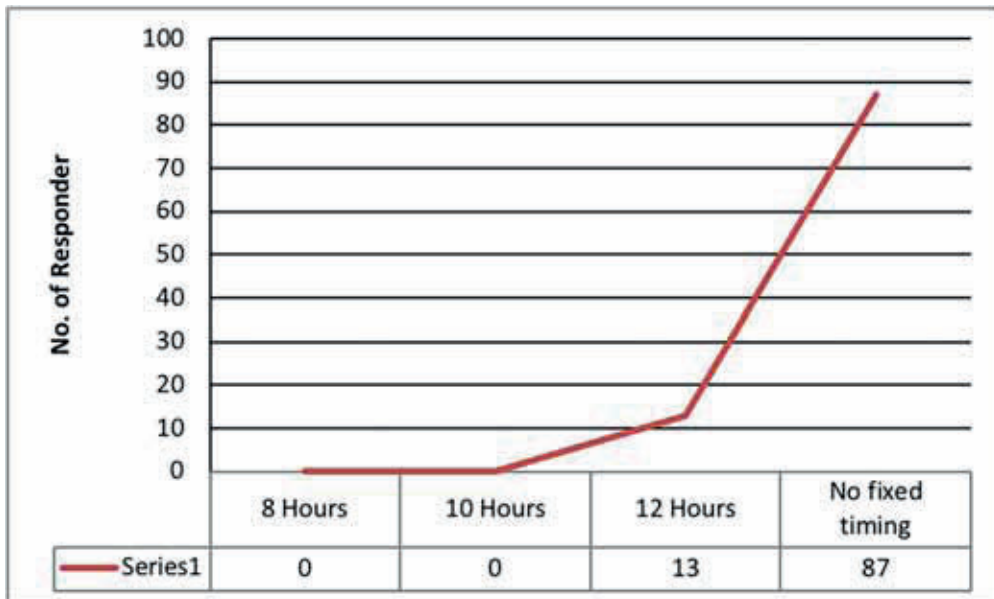


Figure 5 : How long did you have to work during COVID-19 Lockdown?

While on duty during the corona lockdown, 87 percent of female employees report that there is no set time to go home after work. So 13 percent of female employees say they have to work at least twelve hours.

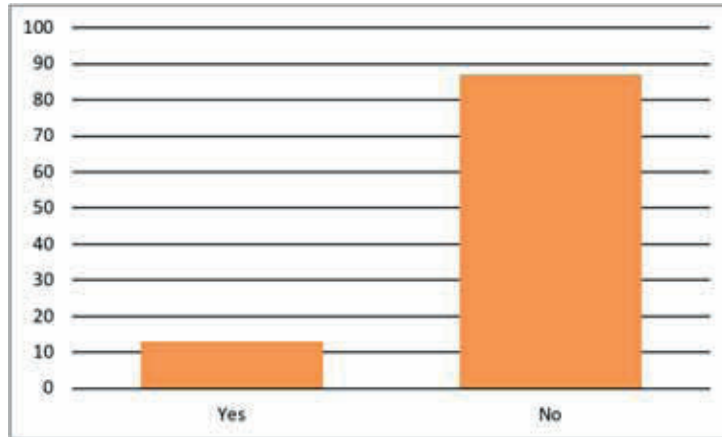


Figure 6: After returning to your hometown from work, did you receive love from husband/child? If No, then why?

Eighty-seven percent of female employees say that the physical pleasure and a maternity pleasure do not meet after 8 to 10 days after returning home from work in the Corona a lockdown period. COVID has to stay out. They Can't go to home there is an atmosphere of fear in the house. It is necessary to keep a distance of at least one a meter. The physical pleasure is not obtained. Working in the containment zone does not allow babies to get close. Because babies, the probability of getting the corona.

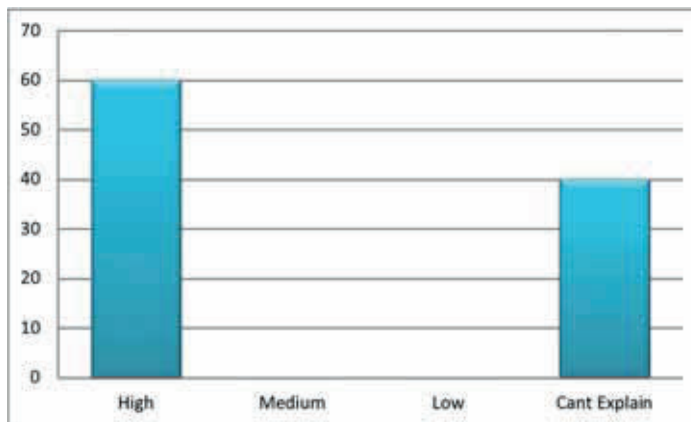


Figure 7: How much are the chances of getting affected by COVID-19 while you are working on the field?

About 60 percent of female employees feel that they are more likely to be infected with corona while working in the workplace. And forty percent of women feel like they can't say anything about coronavirus infection. Not speak in a medium and low context.

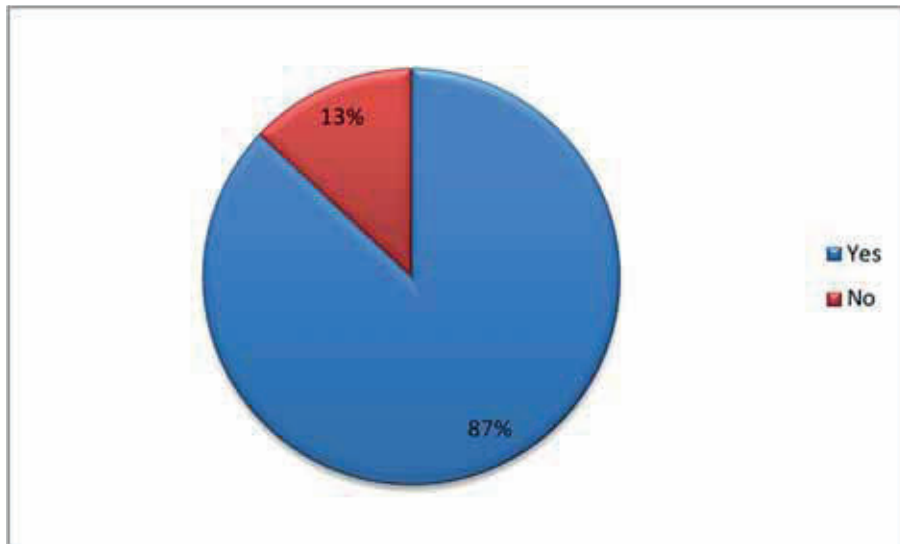


Figure 8 : Are you facing difficulties while traveling from home to work and?

If yes, then what are they?

87 % of female employees face difficulties while traveling from home to work and from work to home (Figure 8). The reasons for this are the lack of travel facilities because there are no tools for travel. Most of the employees working in the field are fourth class and third level of social class. They don't have their own vehicle which makes daily travel difficult. Due to the closure of village roads by the villagers, there are difficulties in coming and going. Since public transportation is closed they can't be reached on time at home and in the workplace.

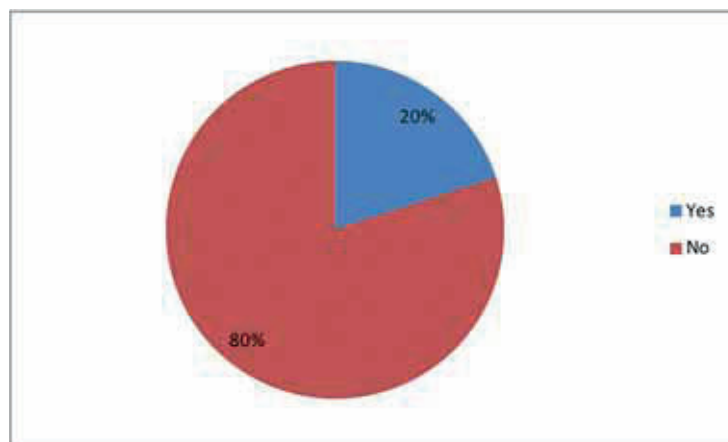


Figure 9 : Did you get time for your safety meantime for delivering your job?

80 percent of female employees reported that during corona lockdown periods they were feeling physically and mentally exhausted as they were unable to get time to take care of themselves while providing services in the field (Figure 9). Working hours are not fixed for the employees. Corona warriors have to go to work even on holidays and there is a need to pay attention to both home and work. The workload is higher on corona warriors due to less working staff.

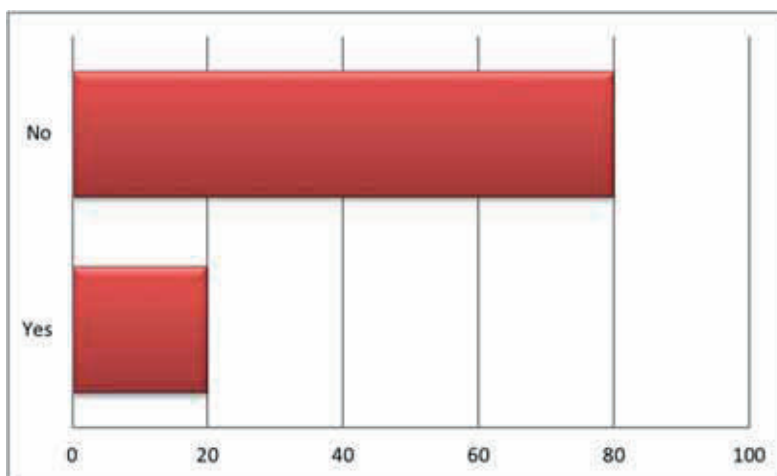


Figure 10 : Was there a restroom/changing room at your workplace?

If No, then how you were managing?

During the pandemic lockdown work period, 80 percent of workers explained that there were no changing rooms or washrooms in a workplace where female employees were on duty (Figure 10). They have to go somewhere to search for a sanitation place and no sanitary napkins, no separate changing room was available in most places. They added that they have to go to someone's house and make a request to use their bathroom for sanitation.

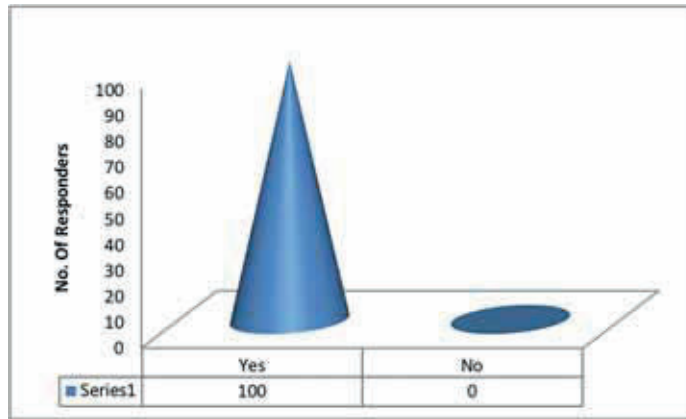


Figure 11 : Did you face gender discrimination?

Everywhere in the field, while working amid the coronavirus pandemic situation, a hundred percent of female employees say that they are facing gender discrimination. Looking at them with lustful eyes, speaking in double meaning.

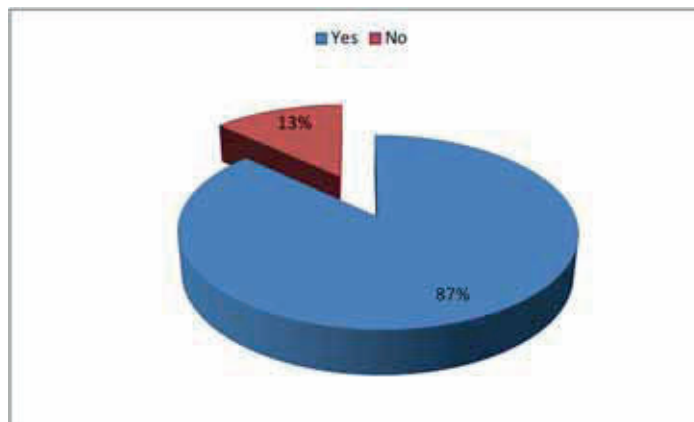


Figure 12 : If you reach home late at night. Did your family doubt on you?

According to 87 percent of women, family doubt on them if they come home late from work.

6. Conclusion

This study has been found that during the lockdown period, while working in the field during such epidemics, various problems have plagued them. The main points of some difficulty while performing duty on this occasion is some women have difficulty in fieldwork due to menstrual problems, feel fieldworks are complex. The cloth in a changing room is not independent for women at ground level. It is essential for women to take care of their children and the elderly; this should be considered in organizing the fieldwork duty to ensure better participation of women, lack of toilet and sanitation facilities. Amid pandemic, fieldwork is resident and held in locations far away from home. Living difficulties, Can't travel, mental stress, fear of corona infection, the inconvenience of meals, not being able to rest, not being able to pay attention to children as well as older adults at home, visiting once a week to go home but people in the community are not ready to take. There is no set time for work; citizens have closed roads in their area. There is a shortage of PPE kits and neglect of one's health. Corona has to go to work even on holidays. You have to pay attention to both home and work. And the workload is higher due to less staff. There are no tools for travel. Due to the closure of village roads by the villagers, there are difficulties in coming and going since public transportation is closed, financial problems and mutual feelings about society. Loyalty to work, commitment, and determination to support the administration in any situation increases his ability to fight the corona.

7. Recommendations

1. Sanitary pads should be available at the workplace during work on the pandemic situation for women workers. Sanitary pads are made available may be in the city but not made available in the village.
2. There should be a separate changing room or washroom.
3. Consider engaging women/getting feedback from women in designing the content of the fieldwork. Because identifying what kind of problems they are facing amid the Corona Pandemic is very important.

4. There should be at least one mobile toilet for each Tahsils during the pandemic for corona warriors.
5. There is a need to work into the challenges faced by the Asha workers and Anganwadi workers to reach their workplace. They often reach late to workplace due to the unavailability of vehicles or public transport.
6. Develop the indicators to review the problems of women warriors in the district suggesting issues faced and solutions to solve their problems in the field workplace.
7. Health Department, police department, Panchayati raj is responsible for implementing the recommendations during any kind of pandemic situation.
8. Give relaxation from work at least few hours so that they can prepare for work enthusiastically for next day.
9. There is a need to give respect for their sacrifice in society. They work for the society in a pandemic situation.
10. Raising awareness through social media as well as local newspapers to eradicate the feeling of sexism and lust from the minds of the people in the society will definitely show good results
11. Making a custom PPE kit for women warriors is important. Many doctors, nurses, etc. fighting COVID are women and have to wear ill-fitting PPEs not designed to be women-friendly, especially during periods.
12. Extra PPEs to be made available during periods.
13. The female HCW should be allowed a change of PPE at least once during her duty allowing her to use the restroom especially when she has periods.
14. Providing PPE to all frontline workers to protect themselves.

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